

# Niblack Gold Prospect

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## Summary

The Niblack Project is a copper-zinc-gold-silver deposit located on Prince of Wales Island, about 30 miles southwest of Ketchikan. The current “[indicated resource \(/Issues/AlaskaCoal/CoalTerminology.html\)](/Issues/AlaskaCoal/CoalTerminology.html)” consists of 2.6 million tons of ore, composed of 1.18% copper, 2.19% zinc 2.33 g/t gold, and 33.18 g/t silver.

The project is being undertaken by [Heatherdale Resource Ltd.](http://www.heatherdaleresources.com/hdr/Home.asp) (<http://www.heatherdaleresources.com/hdr/Home.asp>), a member of the [Hunter Dickinson Mining Group](http://www.hdimining.com/s/Home.asp) (<http://www.hdimining.com/s/Home.asp>) (which also includes [Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd.](http://www.northerndynastyminerals.com/ndm/Home.asp) (<http://www.northerndynastyminerals.com/ndm/Home.asp>), a partner in the [proposed Pebble Mine project \(/Issues/MetalsMining/PebbleMine.html\)](/Issues/MetalsMining/PebbleMine.html)). Heatherdale also owns the rights to the nearby Cayenne and Ruby Tuesday properties, both of which contain non-operating historic mining operations. [Power at the site \(/Issues/MetalsMining/Powering-Large-Mines-In-Alaska.html\)](/Issues/MetalsMining/Powering-Large-Mines-In-Alaska.html) might come from development of hydropower resources in the area, but no details have emerged. Another possibility is that the company would [barge the ore \(http://](http://)

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[www.alaskajournal.com/Alaska-Journal-of-Commerce/June-Issue-4-2012/Ketchikan-eyed-to-process-Niblack-metals/](http://www.alaskajournal.com/Alaska-Journal-of-Commerce/June-Issue-4-2012/Ketchikan-eyed-to-process-Niblack-metals/)) to a milling site near Kethikan to take advantage of existing hydropower. Site assessment for this arrangement is currently underway ([http://www.krbd.org/2012/08/07/assembly-approves-niblack-agreement/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=assembly-approves-niblack-agreement](http://www.krbd.org/2012/08/07/assembly-approves-niblack-agreement/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=assembly-approves-niblack-agreement)). The state is also considering constructing a road to the mine that would facilitate access ([http://www.sitnews.us/0113News/013113/013113\\_se\\_economy.html](http://www.sitnews.us/0113News/013113/013113_se_economy.html)).

## Current Status

In June 2011, the company proposed ([http://www.newsminer.com/company-hopes-to-establish-mine-on-southeast-alaska-island-by/article\\_7cbd7d88-a8ea-5725-9914-456c1104b948.html](http://www.newsminer.com/company-hopes-to-establish-mine-on-southeast-alaska-island-by/article_7cbd7d88-a8ea-5725-9914-456c1104b948.html)) an “optimistic” opening date of 2015 but no permit applications have yet been filed. Exploration in 2012 was expected (<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1007837/heatherdale-initiates-2012-drill-program-provides-update-on-alaska-s-niblack-project>) to consist of around 5,000 meters of drilling. Also in October 2012, work began (<http://www.heatherdaleresources.com/hdr/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=550402&Type=NewsReleases&Title=Heatherdale-Signs-Memorandum-Of-Understanding-On-Preferred-Infrastructure-S...>) on establishing the feasibility of locating the tailings facility and mill on Gravina Island. However, work slowed (<http://www.krbd.org/2013/07/08/niblack-official-gives-project-updates/>) during 2013 due to a lack

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of security and funding in the mining industry and the project is in stasis (<http://www.krbd.org/2013/08/28/niblack-exploration-on-hold-until-at-least-2014/>) until at least 2014. Meanwhile AIDEA signed (<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2013/10/09/aidea-signs-agreement-to-support-niblack-project/>) an agreement to support the facility on Gravina Island.

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## Further Reading

- > Alaska DNR page on Niblack Project (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/niblack/index.htm>)
- > Heatherdale Resources page on Niblack (<http://www.heatherdaleresources.com/hdr/Niblack.asp>)
- > Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) page on Niblack Mine (<http://seacc.org/mining/niblack-mine>)